

THIRTIETH DAY

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025, convened at 12:08 p.m., with Speaker Nakamura presiding.

The Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representatives Alcos, Cochran, Holt, and Ward, who were excused.

By unanimous consent, reading and approval of the Journal of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Ninth Day was deferred.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 5 and 6) were received and announced by the Clerk and were placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 5, dated March 11, 2025, requesting the immediate passage of H.B. No. 1153, HD 1, Relating to Funding Adjustments for State Programs, with proposed amendments inserting emergency appropriation provisions for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Gov. Msg. No. 6, dated March 11, 2025, requesting the consideration of the following special purpose revenue bond bill: H.B. No. 341, HD 1, SD 1, Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Hawai‘i Island Community Health Center.

INTRODUCTIONS

The following introductions were made to the members of the House:

Representative Tarnas introduced his staff: Sean Aronson, Christopher Tanaka, Kalei Han Simms, Evan Miyaki, Makani Sabala-Bactad, and Victoria Stevens.

Representative Quinlan introduced friends and family of Jessica dos Santos: Elpidio Delacruz, Deco dos Santos, Angela Wong, and Alyssa Sintos; and Neil Bowers, Hawai‘i Technology Academy.

Representative Todd introduced family of Denise Mazurik: Mark Mazurik and Kiera Mazurik.

Representative Perruso introduced members of the PACE Commission: Justice Lisa M. Ginoza, Rosanna Fukuda, and Matt Mattice; and Ty Ogasawara, principal, Maui High School.

Representative Takenouchi introduced staff and students from Honolulu, Hawai‘i Island, and Maui YMCA branches.

ORDER OF THE DAY

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS
(FLOOR PRESENTATIONS)

The following resolution (H.R. No. 205) was announced by the Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 205, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS JANYCE OMURA, JESSICA DOS SANTOS, DENISE MAZURIK, 'IMAIKALANI WINCHESTER, AND RICHARD ORNELLAS DURING CIVIC LEARNING WEEK FOR THEIR WORK IN PROMOTING AND ADVANCING CIVIC EDUCATION IN THE STATE," was offered by Representative Perruso.

Representative Perruso moved that H.R. No. 205 be adopted, seconded by Representative Woodson.

Representative Perruso recognized outstanding educators recently recognized by the Hawai‘i State Commission to Protect and Advance Civic Education, shared how the PACE Commission underscores how democracy requires the active participation of informed citizens, and that foundation is laid in our classrooms by dedicated educators; highlighted the accomplishments and contributions of the 2025 PACE Outstanding

Educators; and congratulated and introduced honorees who were seated on the Floor of the House:

Denise Mazurik, Waiākea Intermediate School; Jessica dos Santos, Hawai‘i Technology Academy; and Imaikalani Winchester, Hālau Kū Mana, who was unable to attend.

Representative Poepoe shared how the honorees have worked to broaden students' horizons and cultivate critical leadership skills; recognized their commitment to creating opportunities for students to excel; and congratulated and introduced honorees who were seated on the Floor of the House:

Richard Omellas, Moloka‘i High School; and Janyce Omura, Maui High School.

Representative Perruso also recognized and thanked guests of the honorees who were seated in the gallery.

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.R. No. 205 was adopted, with Representatives Alcos, Cochran, Holt, Ichiyama, and Ward being excused.

At 12:20 p.m., the Chair declared a recess to allow the members to meet and congratulate the honorees.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:31 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

On motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the rules were suspended for the purpose of considering certain House Bills for Third Reading by consent calendar. (Representatives Alcos, Cochran, Hashem, Holt, Lowen, Sayama, and Ward were excused.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Representative Yamashita, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1171) recommending that H.B. No. 400, as amended in HD 1, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 400, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes, with Representatives Alcos, Cochran, Holt, Sayama, and Ward being excused.

At 12:33 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bill passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 400, HD 1

THIRD READING

H.B. No. 300, HD 1:

Representative Todd moved that H.B. No. 300, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Yamashita rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Bill 300, HD 1. First of all, I'd like to thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me the honor and responsibility of leading your Committee on Finance through these challenging times. I'd like to thank you, the vice speaker, your leadership team for their support and guidance through this process.

"I'd also like to thank the chairs of the committee for their input and counsel on many of the items that are before us in this measure, as well as the members on this floor. I'd like to thank the departments for their input in helping us understand and craft this budget, as well as the B&F director who is up there today. Thank you very much. Out of all the directors, you're the only one, so I'll make note of that.

"And then mostly I'd like to thank the vice chair of Finance who has been a great partner through this process and has to come up to speed really quickly. And she put in a lot of long hours with me and with our staff to craft this budget, as well as going through the bills. And so, I'd like to thank her for her support.

"And speaking of partners, I'd also like to thank my former partner and still on the committee, but now she's handling a different role, our CIP manager, and all the hard work that she has put into the budget. I have done that responsibility in the past and it is something that takes a lot of time and effort, to not only counsel the members of the House, but also with the departments, and so I thank her for all her hard work. And just so you know, that was the easy part. It gets harder from here.

"And then as far as our GIA manager also, who's not present, but I'd like to thank him. He has started the process, and his work will continue. And I thank him for all the work that he will be doing for our committee. And as well as the members of the Finance Committee, thank you very much for spending the long hours. We went through five-day recess and we went over the budget item by item and their input was greatly appreciated. So, members, I thank you for your participation and your dedication and your commitment to giving of yourselves and the time it takes to be a member of Finance.

"I'd also like to thank our people, our staff on the Finance Committee. First of all, the budget staff who was critical in putting together this measure. Led by our budget chief, Jon Kawamura who is up there. And then his budget analysts, his team, I can't see them all, but they're up there, they're too far away, Elizabeth, Brandon, Jaymie, Danielle, and Jadine, thank you very much for all your hard work. I really appreciate that. And also, the hard work of our CIP analyst, Ryan Kagimoto. And I know how much work it takes to do all of those things. So, thank you, budget staff.

"As well, I'd like to also, I see up there some of them, but the research staff led by Randall Hiyoto, our research chief, and the supervisor, Stacey Tagala. And the research analysts up there, Kenneth, Allison, Jakob, Dianne, and Shane, thank you for all your hard work, I really appreciate it.

"As well as our front office team led by my office manager, Lois Tambalo, and her team, Dallas, Noe, and Matthew, thank you for doing all the things that need to be done, that needs to be covered and get done. So, thank you very much. There's a lot of little details, so we appreciate that.

"I'd also like to thank our special projects person, I would call him. He works in our research office, Craig Hirai, who has taken a huge cut in pay to come and work with Finance, by the way. And also, Linda Chu Takayama, who's volunteering, also working on special projects for Finance and I really appreciate that."

Representative Tarnas rose to yield his time, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Yamashita continued, stating:

"Thank you very much. And then last but by no means least, our committee clerk, Nandana Kalupahana, and keeping us together and giving us insights of his years and years and years on Finance. So, I really appreciate that.

"With that, Madam Speaker, I'd like to have a few comments on the budget. By the way, can everybody give my budget staff a hand? Thank you.

"Madam Speaker, we ended the 2024 session answering the call of many challenges thrown our way. We provided the framework for the Maui wildfire recovery, as well as strengthening our state's biosecurity. We established a path forward, improving the cost of living and the quality of life of our vulnerable population by doubling the standard deduction and restructuring the tax brackets so that they will see more money in their paychecks. We ensure that minimum wage earners would not be paying middle income taxes.

"The 2025 session began with uncertainty, and it continues to show signs of major headwinds and challenges ahead. In a February 28, 2025 report issued by the Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai'i, the author warned that, and I quote, 'Hawaii's economic growth is threatened by federal disruptions. While tax cuts may provide some stimulus this year, the Administration's actions—including tariffs, mass deportations, and

spending cuts—will impose significant drag thereafter. The clearest near-term risk is federal layoffs, which will result in a loss of more than 2,000 local jobs, fully offsetting growth in construction and the lift from local tax cuts. Together with other federal policies, this places the Hawaii economy at risk of recession over the next few years.'

"House Bill 300, HD 1 reflects the priorities of your House Committee on Finance to craft a responsive and responsible budget dedicated to supporting the safety net and core programs which will prepare ourselves for the difficult decisions ahead. The picture will become clearer for us as the Council on Revenues meets this afternoon. The revenue projection they adopt will set the parameters for the budget we will need to enact this biennium. Equally important will be congressional and presidential actions in the coming weeks as the federal budget is being developed.

"Last week, we passed numerous bills that will require funding to the Senate, and the Senate has done the same. The reality is, we may not be able to afford all those initiatives. We have important decisions to make in the coming weeks to ensure that the lives of our residents are improved despite the headwinds we face.

"The budget is a starting point for conference deliberations next month. It reflects the House priorities as we make careful and responsible decisions to prepare for uncertainty of the federal action. This is why the House draft of the state budget before you dedicates funding for core services, safety net programs, and sets aside \$200 billion to enhance our reserves to withstand future funding pressures.

"While the task ahead may seem overwhelming, we have the tools and options necessary to ensure a responsible budget that will take us into the interim and prepare us for the 2026 session. This budget reflects the first step of the House, and I thank the House Finance Committee and staff for their hard work in crafting a well-thought-out budget, and I respectfully ask that my colleagues support this measure. Thank you. And I yield to the vice chair."

Representative Takenouchi rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Madam Speaker, in support. Just quickly, I do want to extend my thanks and gratitude to the chair as well and the body for allowing me this opportunity to serve as vice chair of Finance. I am really learning a lot. Thank you to the Finance staff for helping me to get caught up, and to my own staff for dealing with my hecticness. We have Kailey and Taylor in the audience, as well as my office manager, Kelton, watching.

"Madam Speaker, today, more than ever, we are realizing the importance of solidifying our social safety net programs to uplift our communities and ensure our most vulnerable residents are protected and cared for. This budget does that by providing \$3.5 million annually for modernization of the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System. \$29.5 million to ensure higher reimbursement rates for medical professionals, ensuring that our doctors and healthcare providers can continue to serve Hawai'i's communities.

"It has \$6.5 million annually for applied behavioral analysis services to increase provider rates and continue assistance to those who rely on Medicaid. \$14.1 million annually for in-home home care and community-based services. \$1 million annually to support youth mental health services. \$3.5 million annually for our summer electronic benefits transfer program to reduce food hunger when school is not in session. \$2 million annually for a new benefits eligibility solution system to process claims. And \$605,000 annually for our family resource centers to foster growth between incarcerated parents and their children.

"This budget also invests in prioritizing successful reintegration for individuals in our criminal justice system by investing \$4.1 million annually for reentry services to connect offenders with community-based services as well as the necessary documents for their success. And to address the growing safety concerns that we have all been hearing from residents across the state, we have allocated \$1.3 million in fiscal year 26 for the expansion of the Fireworks Task Force to provide additional support to reduce the illegal fireworks use we're seeing across the state.

"There's also \$825,000 in fiscal year 26 for the continuation of the successful gun buyback program to help reduce unwanted and illegal guns in Hawai'i. As well as \$1.9 million annually and 20 positions for the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency to support large-scale disaster response and project management. I now yield the floor to my colleague from House District 17."

Representative Morikawa rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. Investing in education means investing in the future of our *keiki*, and this budget takes significant steps to strengthen our schools and the university system. \$2 million annually and 13 positions for the Kaiapuni Program continuing our commitment to Hawaiian language revitalization and cultural education. \$20 million for summer school programs, expanding learning opportunities for students. \$10 million annually for skilled nursing services in schools, supporting student health and well-being. \$1.7 million annually for student mental health and social emotional support programs, recognizing the importance of mental wellness in academic success. \$3.9 million in FY26 and \$3.6 million in FY27 for workforce readiness programs. \$4 million annually to increase school security, providing safer schools for our children. \$5.9 million annually for athletics, including the new Flag Football program.

"Additionally, we made investments in higher education, including \$16.3 million for intercollegiate athletics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. \$9.5 million for the UH Cancer Center to ensure continuation of research, clinical trials, treatments, and public health initiatives for the State of Hawai'i. \$179,378 annually for the I Hoa Na Mo'olelo program. I now yield the floor to my colleague from House District 36."

Representative Lamosao rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support. In addition to what was mentioned by my colleague of Waimea, I would like to also add that this budget invests to support Filipino and underrepresented students in higher education. It gives three permanent positions to the Pamantasan Council, and \$175,000 for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and an additional \$175,000 to our community colleges.

"Our natural resources are vital to Hawai'i, Madam Speaker. And this budget invests in protecting them for future generations. It appropriates \$7.4 million in FY26 and \$4.5 million in FY27 for fire response and fuels reduction. \$3 million in FY26 for West Maui fire prevention at Ukumehame. And \$350,000 annually for Hawai'i Mesonet for advanced weather monitoring. We also invest \$1.1 million annually for DOCARE officers and their equipment.

"Lastly, Madam Speaker, this budget invests \$5 million annually for the Dam and Appurtenance Improvement or Removal grant program. I now yield to my colleague from House District 20."

Representative Grandinetti rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. The House draft of the state budget demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that the roads and transportation infrastructure throughout our state are safe and reliable for our residents. The budget includes \$6.6 million in fiscal year 26 and \$4.2 million in fiscal year 27 for aircraft rescue firefighting operations. \$23.8 million annually for security contracts providing safety and security in airports and on aircrafts. \$71 million in 2026 and \$65 million in 2027 for the airports special maintenance program for continued smooth operations at our airports. \$25 million annually for the harbors joint service inter-government service agreement to coordinate projects between jurisdictions for efficiency and cost effectiveness.

"It appropriates \$30 million in 2026 and \$35 million in 2027 for the harbors special maintenance program, ensuring uninterrupted operations at our harbors. \$50 million in 2026 and \$45 million in 2027 for the highways special maintenance program for continued day-to-day maintenance of our highways. \$15 million in 2026 for statewide fire mitigation, identifying alternative routes to be activated in an emergency, clearing of flammable brush, and the creation of fire breaks.

"It also includes \$5 million in 2026 for property storage and debris removal. And my personal favorite, \$13 million in fiscal year 2026 and \$400,000 in fiscal year 27 for Safe Routes to School to identify, develop, and recommend statewide safe routes to school. I now yield the floor to my colleague from House District 29."

Representative Hussey rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to appreciate the comments made earlier in his preparatory remarks by the Finance chair, indicating that we do make this budget in challenging times. Our state does face significant headwinds. And I believe that the best way forward is for us to develop a stronger, more resilient economy. That's much of what this budget accomplishes.

"It includes \$1 million annually for the Manufacturing Assistance Program, which helps local businesses develop here in Hawai'i. It includes \$1 million annually for the Hawai'i Small Business Innovation Research Program, and these grants will allow us to leverage future federal SPR dollars. It also includes \$1 million annually for the Accelerator Grant Program, which supports local entrepreneurs. We all want to support them.

"This budget also includes \$1.45 million annually for healthcare workforce development, which is something that we're all aware of the shortages that our state faces. \$465,000 and five positions for the Office of Federal Awards Management to recruit additional federal dollars. \$1.7 million annually for increased pay for deputy public defenders, bringing them on par with other government attorneys. And my personal favorite, \$200 million deposited into the Emergency and Budget Relief Fund to provide the state with additional financial flexibility in these times of emergency. Thank you. And now I yield to my colleague from House District 2."

Representative Keohokapu-Lee Loy rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Madam Speaker, in support. Thank you, Madam Speaker. As our Finance chair so eloquently put, we are facing challenging times ahead, and would like to echo his gratitude to leadership and staff for their enormous contributions to this budget. Madam Speaker, health care remains a priority of the House. Members, House Bill 300, House Draft 1 charts a strong course to tackle the choppy journey ahead and provides resources to the overall well-being of all of our families, friends, and neighbors.

"The highlights are \$80 million in fiscal year 26, and \$69.6 million in fiscal year 27 for the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation for all regions across the State of Hawai'i. \$12 million and \$6 million in fiscal 26 and 27, respectively, for our Maui Health Systems. \$1.8 million in fiscal 26 and \$3.3 million in addition to 21 positions for ongoing certification in certified community behavioral clinics. And \$5.5 million for psychiatric beds. These investments are in needed cornerstones for all of our communities.

"In the area of taking care of our family, this bill makes strategic strides with \$31.4 million over the biennium for home and community-based service waivers, and \$1.7 million annually for family planning and preventative health services.

"It also provides a hand up with \$6.2 million in fiscal 26 and \$5.4 million in fiscal 27 in grants for small and disadvantaged communities. And a life-saving investment of \$1.8 million for ambulance services for North Kona. These resources help all of our families in the area of health care. Madam Speaker, I now yield my time to the distinguished gentleman from House District 1."

Representative Kusch rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Strong support. The message has been loud and clear, strengthening local agriculture is key to sustainability within our state. And that sustainability is predicated on control of invasive species. As such, the following budget elements support this directive of strengthening biosecurity, \$10.7 million annually for 32 positions of plant, pest, and disease control branch for biosecurity. \$1.2 million annually for green waste and compost reimbursement for biosecurity. A little over \$804,000 annually for 12 positions in the pesticide branch for biosecurity. And \$163,164 annually for two positions for the plant pest and disease control branch. So,

thank you all. I now yield my floor time to my colleague from House District 50."

Representative Lee rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support. I'd also like to thank the Honorable Finance chair, vice chair, and the Finance staff who are here today. This budget prioritizes investments in Hawai'i's labor force and workforce to modernize operations and expand employment support. \$4.17 million ceiling increase for the Workforce Investment Opportunity Grant, funding job training programs and career counseling services to support adults, dislocated workers, youth, and other target groups in preparing for new career opportunities. \$6.8 million in fiscal year 26, and \$2.8 million in fiscal year 27 for pension administration system migration. \$231,000 in fiscal year 26, and \$427,000 in fiscal year 27, and six positions for the Department of Human Resources Development to boost the state's recruitment and outreach initiatives.

"\$1.8 million in fiscal year 26 for classification and compensation study for Department of Human Resources Development to review and update executive branch civil service classes to enhance recruitment, retention, and equitable compensation. And lastly, \$2.8 million in fiscal year 26 and \$3.1 million in fiscal year 27 for software upgrades for Department of Labor Industrial Relations to improve efficiency, security, and accessibility of case management systems for disability compensation programs. And now, I yield the floor to my colleague from House District 10 representing Wailuku to Waikapu."

Representative Miyake rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support. Madam Speaker, the House continues to reaffirm its commitment to affordable housing and to build more affordable rental and for-sale housing for low- and moderate-income families in Hawai'i, as well as to house our most vulnerable populations. \$1.5 million annually for family assessment centers, prioritizing houseless families with children, by quickly moving them off the streets and into shelter or permanent housing. \$1.75 million annually for homeless outreach and civil legal services connecting houseless individuals with shelters and assisting in obtaining identification documents.

"\$3.75 million each year for housing first and rapid rehousing programs, ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness receive the support and resources needed to secure permanent housing. \$250,000 annually for the State Rent Supplement Program providing critical financial relief for families struggling with housing stability. And lastly, \$250,000 annually for the federal Section 8 program expanding rental assistance opportunities for our most vulnerable population. I now yield the floor to my colleague from House District 30."

Representative Templo rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support. Our state budget prioritizes much needed investments in Hawai'i's visitor industry, which accounts for one-third of our economy and provides thousands of jobs for our local residents. This budget highlights four key allocations. \$1.9 million will go to repairs and maintenance of the Hawai'i Convention Center. As the largest and most prominent convention venue in the state, the Hawai'i Convention Center plays a vital role in attracting domestic and international business. These funds will ensure necessary repairs and upkeep to maintain our world-class facility to host special events like our recent Honolulu Festival, Pokémon Go, Kawaii Con, World Economic Forum East Asia Meeting, and much more.

"\$12 million dollars is allocated to renovation at the historic King Kalakaua building. Home to the Hawai'i Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, this 127-year-old building houses key divisions responsible for business regulation, consumer protection, and marketplace oversight. This investment will enhance services for businesses and the public, ensuring continued efficiency in regulatory operations.

"\$25,000 is budgeted to expand the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. The IMLC streamlines the licensing process for physicians across participating states. This compact will make it easier for doctors to practice in our state, ultimately improving healthcare access for our residents. And lastly \$1.5 million will go to upgrading the Captive Insurance Branch IT

system. A strong and compliant captive insurance market is essential to Hawai'i's economy. This upgrade will improve regulatory oversight, operational efficiency, and industry growth, ensuring that Hawai'i remains a leader in this sector.

"With these strategic investments, we continue to strengthen Hawai'i's economic foundation, business climate, and essential industries. Thank you. I now yield the floor to our colleague, our CIP manager from House District 48."

Representative Kitagawa rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support. I'd first like to start off by thanking you, Madam Speaker, and the members of this body for allowing me to take the lead on CIP this year. It's a responsibility I do not take lightly, and I thank you for this opportunity to do this important work. I'd also like to take the opportunity to also thank the Finance chair for his guidance. And as he mentioned, he previously served as the CIP chair for many years, so I really appreciated his insight and assistance on crafting this CIP budget. Thank you also to the vice chair of Finance for all of her hard work and support on this budget, as well as to the Finance Committee for the many hours that they have spent on working on this budget as well.

"I'd also like to take the opportunity to also thank the staff who have worked on the CIP budget and have supported me in doing this work. First, thank you to my session staff, Mackenzie Kop and Carissa McNair for their support and hard work in my office. And thank you to my office manager, Wendy Okazaki, as well as Ryan Kagimoto, who is my CIP Finance staff. Both Wendy and Ryan have spent many hours researching and vetting these projects and working with me to put together this year's CIP budget. I couldn't have done this work without them, and I am truly grateful.

"This biennial CIP budget includes about \$1.9 billion in general obligation and general obligation revolving bonds, and about \$6 billion when you consider all means of financing. This CIP budget includes many important items to help our state address our many needs, and prioritizes areas such as health and safety, affordable housing, and education. I'd now like to highlight some of the items that are included in this CIP budget.

"This CIP budget includes \$408 million for affordable housing projects statewide, including funding for critical infrastructure, the Ka Lei Momi Redevelopment Project, and an infusion of funds to both the Rental Housing Revolving Fund and the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund. \$16 million to improve state agriculture irrigation systems and reservoir systems. \$35 million to support the third Hawai'i State Veterans Home on Maui. \$50 million to support repairs and upgrades to the Hawai'i Convention Center. \$480 million to the Department of Education for various improvements and repairs to school facilities, including \$150 million for deferred maintenance projects, \$50 million for health and safety improvements, and \$20 million to address compliance issues, including ADA and Title IX.

"\$40 million for Hawaiian Home Lands. \$116 million for healthcare services, including \$25 million for the new Kea'au Benioff Medical Center and \$13 million for Kona Community Hospital's new emergency department. \$60 million for land and natural resources statewide, including watershed protection, rockfall mitigation, and health of drinking water aquifers. \$54 million for state libraries. \$75 million for various public safety and correction facilities. And \$333 million to support higher education and the University of Hawai'i System.

"Madam Speaker, this CIP budget addresses many of the issues we have in our state and prioritizes many important projects for our community statewide. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this budget. Thank you very much."

Representative Iwamoto rose to speak in support of the measure with reservations, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise in support with reservations. And I just wanted to share what my reservations are. I want to start by thanking the chair and all of the individuals who served on the committee for their incredible work, and your staff, incredible. I know it's really hard to make these tough decisions. I do want to give voice, though, to the reservations that the community offered in their testimony, specifically regarding the

\$30 million for what has been deemed as a perpetuation of our mass incarceration policies. That is \$30 million that could have gone to services, although I do appreciate that \$4.1 million was allocated for reintegration services so that we don't need to incarcerate so many individuals. But nonetheless, the \$30 million is quite a sizable amount. And for many in the community, it represents what could become a \$1 billion cost. But thank you for your work, I appreciate it. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Garcia rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Souza rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support. I just wanted to acknowledge the work of the Finance chair and also acknowledge that these are challenging times to be crafting a budget with everything going on at the federal level. Just in this past week alone, I've been reading about the stock market's volatility, hits to 401(k)s, the imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum, the fears of a recession, and cuts to the Department of Education, and also just general cuts to our federal workforce. So, with all that being said, I think that this budget is as good of a budget as we'll get at this point in time with proper forecasting and just considering what is going on at the federal level. Thank you."

Representative Matsumoto rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Pierick rose to speak in support of the measure with reservations, stating:

"Thank you, with reservations. So, according to the Tax Foundation, our state is ranked number 2 out of 50 with high income tax and we're ranked number eight with an overall tax burden. So, we've got a lot of taxes compared to the other states in our country, and what is the return on that. We have a budget of \$20 billion and there's some line items that are great, thanks to everybody who are helping with those good line items.

"There's also a lot of wasteful spending. To start, \$5 million to litigate basically the federal administration. So, America has spoken. Over a majority of the popular vote and a majority of the electoral college went to Trump saying, let's make him our president. And now us as a state, we're saying, no, let's spend \$5 million of the hard-earned tax income dollars of our residents and let's litigate the president because we're going to disagree with the rest of America. That sounds wasteful to me.

"We've got over \$800,000 to take away or to incentivize the decreasing of people's access to their Second Amendment right. Instead of saying let's actually create a tax credit to give people guns, let's instead use people's tax money to buy back guns. That doesn't make sense from a constitutional standpoint.

"Also, we've got a Healthcare Education Loan Repayment Program, \$50 million for that. How about instead of saying, all right, everybody in the residential area, you all have to pay taxes so we can favor doctors and nurses getting education, let's instead give them tax credits or something like that. Or say, hey, go get a scholarship, or go get a job so you can pay off your loan. I have education and none of it came from loan repayment programs, it all came from scholarships.

"We also have a Mass Transit Special Fund, basically the rail, half a billion dollars going towards a project that probably none of us use in this chamber, yet we keep funding it. It's \$12 billion in the future, it was only supposed to be \$4 billion. \$30 million that goes to the study of a new OCCC. Instead of actually, let's use this money to build one, let's talk about it, let's create some drawings and say \$30 million to create a drawing for OCCC.

"We also have over half a million dollars for a Military and Community Relations Office. Okay, they all have phone numbers and emails. We can just pick up our phone and say, hey, Mr. Military Man, let's coordinate something, instead of allocating half a million dollars for an office to do the coordinating for us. There's a lot of wasteful spending here, and so I'm voting reservations for that reason."

Representative Muraoka rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Reyes Oda rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"I stand in support. As the minority member of the Finance Committee, the decisions made in the allocation of state funds was a tedious but thoughtful process. Although I'm learning, I appreciated the guidance from the Finance chair, who took the time to answer questions and to explain processes to me. Thank you, Finance chair, for your dedication, and I stand in support of this budget."

Representative Pierick rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, with reservations. There's one item I forgot to bring up. Also in this budget included is \$715,000 for four positions for the deputy superintendents in the DOE. We have about 170,000 students in the DOE, we've got over 12,000 teachers, that's a ratio of about 13 students for every teacher. And then in the DOE overall, we've got 23,000 staff. Almost twice as many staff members, or I should say, for every teacher, there's like a staff member in the DOE. And we're going to add four more positions for this in the superintendent's office. It sounds kind of crazy. Let's like decrease the administrative side of the DOE and focus more on the teachers. And we're just going to be adding more money towards the administrative side of the DOE. So, that's why I'm voting with reservations."

Representative Shimizu rose to speak in support of the measure with reservations, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with reservations and comment, please. I understand there are difficult decisions to make, and we all probably have different opinions on how money can be spent. I just want to express my gratitude to the Finance chair, vice chair, committee members, their staff. I'm really struck by the impact and the magnitude of what we do here, and I'm humbled to serve along my fellow colleagues. And I pray that the money will go a long way and make a difference in our communities and in our state and for people who really need it. So, I would just pray that we continue to make good decisions and work together. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 300, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes, with Representatives Garcia, Iwamoto, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Cochran, Holt, and Ward being excused.

At 1:16 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bill passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 300, HD 1

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:16 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Thursday, March 13, 2025. (Representatives Alcos, Cochran, Holt, and Ward were excused.)